Quota of foodgrains and kerosene in FPS reduced

3469. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reduced the quota of foodgrains and kerosene in the Fair Price Shops in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken for the restoration of the reduced quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Bulk allocation of foodgrains and kerosene are made by Central Government to States/UTs. All operational matters relating to the implementation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) including monthly allocations to individual Fair Price Shops are under the administrative jurisdiction of the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. As such, the Central Government does not maintain details of allocations to Fair Price Shops in any State/UT. Central Government has not reduced the quota of foodgrains and kerosene made to any State/UT recently.

International Conference on Consumers' Rights

3470. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any international conference on Consumers' Rights is scheduled to be held in France around 25th September, 1994;

(b) if so, whether an Indian delegation will be attending the said conference; and

(c) what will be the constitution of the delegation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) According to a news item in the magazine entitled "Consumer Currents", the International Organisation of Consumers Unions (IOCU) will hold the 14th World Congress from 26 to 30th September, 1994 in France. This Ministry has not received any invitation for this Congress, so far.

Consumers' Rights Organisations

3471. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many consumers' rights organisations are working in the country;

(b) what are their names and addresses; and

(c) what assistance these organisations receive from Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) More than 500 Consumer organisations are working in the country. The Directory containing the names and addresses of these organisations is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The Ministry operates two schemes for providing financial assistance to

consumer organisations. Under the first scheme, a consumer organisation can be given a grant of maximum of Rs. 25,000. In the other scheme, financial assistance is made available to them from the Consumer Welfare Fund. In addition, the Ministry also distributes the printed literature and copies of quarterly journal "Upabhokta Jagaran" to all the consumer organisations free of cost.

State Fora not abiding by decision of National Consumer Redressal Fora

3472. SHRI TULASIDAS MAJJI:
DR. SHRIKANT
RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the instances where the District Consumer Grievances Redressal Fora and State Fora have not abided by the decision of the National Consumer Redressal Forum;

(b) whether the decision of the National Forum are binding on the subordinate Fora; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to streamline the process of such activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, excepting for a stray instance of a District Forum in Tamil Nadu declining to follow the dictum laid down by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission by stating that decisions of the National Commission are not binding on it, which view was promptly overruled by the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, no other instance has come to the knowledge of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission where the District Consumer Fora and State Fora have not abided by its decision. According to them, the decisions of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission are binding on subordinate Fora.

(c) In 1993, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was amended to extend the administrative control of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission over all the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions in matters of issuance of instructions regarding adoption of uniform procedure in the hearing of matters, prior service of copies of documents produced by one party to opposite party etc. Similar administrative control of State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has been extended over the District Fora within its jurisdiction.

Penalising manufacturers for exaggerating the quality in advertisements

3473. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1755 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th August, 1994 and state:

(a) the number of cases registered against the manufacturers who exaggerate the quality of their products in advertisements during the last three years and the number out of them who have been penalised; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) This Ministry does not compile such information.

(b) In view of the above, the question does not arise.